



MAPW - Health Professionals Promoting Peace

Your Latest MAPW ENEWS

February 2018

Dear Supporter,

The Australian Government appears to be dragging our country into an even greater reliance on warfare for not only our identity as a nation but also our prosperity. The commitment of \$3.8 billion to help those corporations that already profit from warfare comes as our overseas aid heads for all-time low levels, our capacity for diplomacy appears missing in action, and our state of continual warfare becomes more and more entrenched. As the horrific reports from Syria (see below) remind us yet again, warfare, once unleashed, appears to know no bounds. Our goal of preventing wars is all the more urgent. There will be more news on MAPW's response to our nation's role in the arms trade soon.

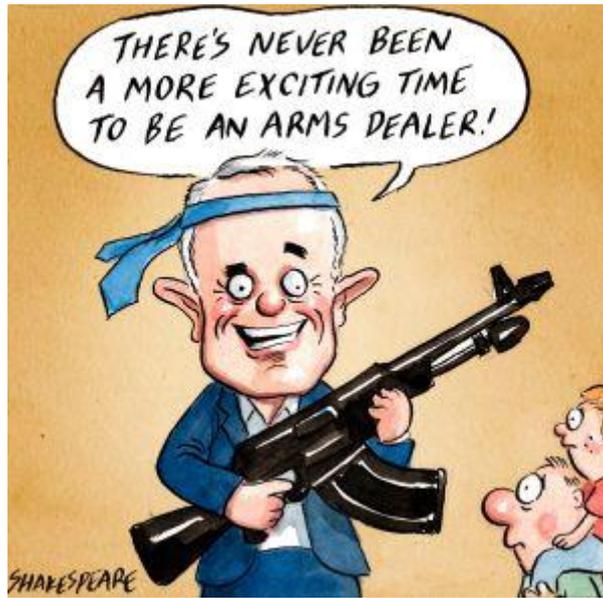
On the nuclear weapons front, we will soon circulate the text of a statement from health professionals urging the Australian Government (current or any future government) to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We will be asking you all to spread it widely, getting signatures for the statement and raising awareness of MAPW's work along the way. Please continue approaching parliamentarians to urge them to sign ICAN's pledge to support the ban treaty, noting those who have already signed ([listed here](#))

On the nuclear waste issue, unfortunately we must keep focusing on this because the Australian Government continues to manipulate the facts about nuclear medicine and nuclear waste dump issues. Imposing nuclear waste on communities who have been misinformed is not acceptable. Nor is the ramping up of Australia's reactor-based production of nuclear isotopes (and therefore waste production) when there is no solution to the waste problem, rather than investing in the growing field of non-reactor based isotope production. See MAPW's correspondence on this below.

Sincere thanks for your ongoing support. When we no longer need it, we'll rejoice and let you know!

Sue Wareham
President

Prime Minister wants Australia to become a "top 10" arms dealer



cartoon by John Shakespeare - SMH

The announcement by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull that Australia aspires to become one of the world's largest arms dealers was met by an outpouring of public criticism. The letters pages of newspapers across the country were full of comments, the vast majority of them condemning the government for committing public funds to support the trade in death and destruction.

MAPW National President, Dr Sue Wareham was quick to respond with a [letter published the following day in the Canberra Times](#). This was followed by a more detailed article published by the [Pearls and Irritations](#) blog, hosted by John Menadue, entitled "[PM Turnbull's 'jobs' argument for war profiteering is a sham](#)". Mungo MacCallum contributed another excellent article to the blog entitled "[Merchants of Death](#)"

"Beating the Khaki drum: how Australian identity was militarised"

The following article by Paul Daley, published in The Guardian Australia on 1 Feb, begins with reference to the prominent weapons advertising at Canberra Airport, which are the subject of MAPW's [No Airport Arms Ads campaign](#). Daley writes:

"A nation's capital should be an outward looking place, a city that faces the world to convey the type of country it represents. What, then, might be the first thoughts about Australia of those who fly into Canberra as they traverse the arrivals hall and concourse at our national capital's airport? The giant illuminated billboards advertising the names and wares of some of the world's biggest manufacturers of combat machinery impart an unmistakable impression: here is an Australia tying its identity to warfare...." You can read the full article [here](#).

You can help the No Airport Arms Ads campaign by sending a quick message to the Canberra Airport urging that the ads be removed; follow the [link](#) on the website.

Syria: Doctors and nurses collapsing as medical response in East Ghouta reaches its limits



A damaged ambulance in front of Arbin Hospital in eastern Ghouta after an airstrike. Photo: Getty Images.

MSF reports on the appalling suffering being inflicted on civilians in East Ghouta, Syria:

“Casualty numbers in Syria’s besieged East Ghouta enclave are soaring beyond imagination as the capacity to provide healthcare is in its final throes”, said the international medical humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) today.

Hospitals and clinics supported by MSF had seen more than 2,500 wounded and more than 520 dead after just five days of intense bombing and shelling – from evening of Sunday 18 to evening of Friday 23 February, certainly an under-estimate the number of facilities who managed to report is decreasing and as many facilities in the area that MSF does not support have also received wounded and dead. Many of these are women and children. On Friday 23 February, women and children represented 58 percent of the wounded and 48 percent of the deceased recorded by the 9 MSF-supported supported facilities that managed to report.

Over the same period 13 medical facilities, fully or partially supported by MSF, have been hit by bombs or shells. Medics in East Ghouta who were already pushed to the brink have been working now for six days straight, without a break, with no realistic hope of being able to adequately treat their patients in such extreme circumstances. MSF calls for an immediate ceasefire to enable the basic human act of helping the sick and wounded.

“As a nurse who has worked through extremely grim conflicts, I am devastated to hear doctors and nurses in East Ghouta saying they have 100 wounded patients and no hospital because it has just been reduced to rubble by bombing,” says Meinie Nicolai, General Director of MSF.

“There is a level of desperation and exhaustion that comes from working round the clock, finding no

time to sleep, no time to eat, permanently surrounded by bombing, and simply being in the middle of absolute distress. Adrenaline can only keep you going for so long. If doctors and nurses collapse, humanity collapses. We must be determined to not let that happen.”

On the third day of this offensive, the medics that MSF supports were calling for increased medical supplies. Now, after six days of incessant bombardment, they are saying that even with supplies they would have no physical capacity left to keep treating the wounded, and they call for something else – for the bombing to just stop.

For more information visit the MSF [website](#)

Peace Boat Visits Australia



In late January 2018, [Peace Boat](#) arrived in Fremantle to start the “Making Waves” speaking tour. Peace Boat, an ICAN partner organisation, was visiting Australia for the first time in 10 years. Equipped with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and a Nobel Peace Prize, Japanese and Australian nuclear survivors joined together to demand both governments join the treaty without delay.

Hibakusha from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, former dairy farmers from Fukushima and nuclear test survivors from South Australia traveled aboard the “floating university” from Fremantle to Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart and finally Sydney. The Making Waves tour combined public forums with political meetings, workshops and press conferences.

Thank you to MAPW branches and members in WA, SA, Tas, Vic & NSW who participated in Making Waves, and especially to ICAN and all of the organisations that worked with them to promote the tour and its message.

Here are a couple of media reports from [SBS News](#) and the [Hobart Mercury](#) about the tour for you to enjoy.

MAPW writes to Resources Minister Canavan and to ARPANSA about ongoing nuclear waste saga



MAPW has written to Resources Minister Matthew Canavan and to the CEO of ARPANSA (Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, the nuclear regulatory body) Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, setting out in detail our concerns in relation to:

- the divisive and misleading way in which a location for a national radioactive waste management facility is being sought; and
- Australia's expansion of the production of nuclear isotopes for export, when there is no satisfactory solution to the waste problem, and when non-reactor means of production of isotopes gains momentum globally.

The letters state "For far too long nuclear waste management has been thought about well after the waste is produced". This is effectively dumping the problem on future generations. The first principle of toxic waste management is to reduce production.

MAPW repeats our call for an independent inquiry into the production and management of Australia's nuclear waste and for Australia to follow international best practice in relation to nuclear waste management.

You can read MAPW's letter to Sen. Canavan [here](#) & the letter to ARPANSA [here](#).

Thanks to immediate past president of MAPW, Dr Margie Beavis, and other members, for their ongoing work on this issue.

**MAPW National President awarded Chief Minister's inaugural
Rotary Peace Prize in ACT**



Dr Sue Wareham receives the inaugural Chief Minister's Rotary Peace Prize from Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts and Community Events, Gordon Ramsay. Photo, as appeared in The Riot Act: Jack Mohr

At a ceremony held at Nara Peace Park in Canberra, MAPW National President Dr Sue Wareham was awarded the inaugural Chief Minister's Rotary Peace Prize on Friday 23rd February. The awarding of this prestigious prize coincided with the unveiling of the Rotary Peace Bell, a symbol of remembrance to all those who have lost their lives as a result of violence, and a reminder for the need to unite in work for peace.

When accepting the award from Gordon Ramsay, ACT Minister for the Arts and Community Events, Sue called on the Australian government to rethink its policy of building the economy on war profiteering. As one of the founding members of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN, and a long time anti nuclear campaigner, Sue called on Australians to work to ensure that Australia signs and ratifies the recently agreed UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

You can read more about the Rotary Peace Bell and the event itself [here](#).

All of us at MAPW would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sue for her tireless work in promoting peace and a nuclear free future.

Two Minutes to Midnight



The “Doomsday Clock” was recently re-set to two minutes to midnight, the closest it has been to global catastrophe since 1953. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists justified the decision based on the current nuclear landscape and the threat of a new arms race. The newly published US Nuclear Posture Review reinforces that concern, by increasing the range of situations to which the US Government would consider responding with nuclear weapons.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has not yet responded to these dangerous developments. As the Australian government claims protection from the US nuclear arsenal, it has a vital role to play and must remove our consent for the US to threaten to use weapons of mass destruction on our behalf. The nuclear ban treaty is a vital part of the process to stigmatise and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Australia must sign and ratify the nuclear ban treaty, and we are working with ICAN and others to make this happen sooner rather than later.

Writing in the Guardian, Assoc, Prof Dr Tilman Ruff described the US nuclear weapons review as [“a chilling document that echo’s the cold war era”](#)

Two major investment funds no longer banking on the bomb!



Since the UN Treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons was agreed, two major investment funds have announced they will stop investing in nuclear weapons manufacturers.

The first to divest was Dutch civil service pension scheme manager, APB. APB - Europe's biggest pension fund -said in a [media statement](#) on 11 January that it reached the decision after extensive consultations at board level, based on the views of its participants, affiliated employers and various special interest organisations. Combined with APB's decision to also divest from tobacco, this means that €3.3bn will be divested from its portfolio over the coming year.

Less than a week later, Norway's state pension fund, the world's largest sovereign wealth fund, [announced it would no longer be investing in BAE Systems](#) because the company was engaged in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. To date the fund has already divested from twelve other companies involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

These two decisions set a welcome precedent to other funds to follow their lead, especially here in Australia where a number of health based superannuation funds, and the nation's own Future Fund, still invest in companies involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

Doctors arrested in Turkey for advocating war is a public health problem



Turkish police clash with protestors following the arrest of members of a medical association that spoke out against Turkey's military offensive into an enclave in northwest Syria on January 30, 2018 in Ankara. ADEM ALTAN / AFP

On 30th January we received news from Turkey that eleven members of the Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association had been arrested at a meeting just outside Ankara. Detention warrants were issued because of their statement entitled "War is a public health problem". Police searched the council building as well as the homes and clinics of the doctors. MAPW (Australia) expressed grave concern at the arrests by the Turkish Government of all 11 members.

[In a statement to the media](#) MAPW President Dr Sue Wareham said, "MAPW in Australia fully supports our health worker colleagues everywhere in speaking out about the terrible impacts that

warfare has on public health. It is the duty of our profession to speak out about anything that undermines health and the closely related issue of human rights.”

War has many impacts on the overall health of a nation, not only in the deaths and physical and mental maiming of many of its citizens, but also in the suppression of basic freedoms – as we are seeing in Turkey now – and in the diversion of resources from health and other essential services to destructive purposes.

The doctors’ right to freedom of expression is enshrined in article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Turkey ratified in 2003. Those rights have now been undermined.

The World Medical Association also issued a [statement of support](#) along with a large number of national medical associations from around the world including a [statement from MAPW's parent body the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War \(IPPNW\)](#) .

All eleven doctors have now been released. The head of the association Raşit Tükel said, *“We acted as we always do as doctors. We have focused on human life and health. We will continue to act as doctors in every setting we are in. We do not accept the charges,”*

BBC Radio program "Inside Science" also reported on the arrests; you can listen to the podcast [here](#)

Statement by the Turkish Medical Association

“ War is a public health problem!

As doctors we warn:

War is a human-made public health problem with effects of destroying nature and humankind, and a threat to social life.

Each armed conflict, each war brings along human tragedy by causing irremediable problems in terms of physical, mental, social and environmental health.

As members of a profession who have taken oath to save lives we constantly keep in mind our first and foremost duty to defend life and commit to maintain the environment of peace.

The way to cope up with the problem of war is to have a just, democratic, equalitarian, free and peaceful life and maintain it.

No to war; peace now and everywhere!

”



MAPW in the News

Over the past two months a number of articles, letters and opinion pieces written by MAPW members and supporters, were popping up all over Australia's media. In national newspapers, medical journals and popular blogs there has been letters, opinion pieces and in depth articles on a range of topics. Many have been featured as part of the Making Waves Peace Boat tour and of course ICAN's Nobel Peace Prize. Here is just a small selection with many more available to read at our [website](#) and on our [Facebook](#) page.

An article by SA Branch Convenor, Dr Amanda Ruler was published in the [Australian Nursing and Midwifery Journal](#) regarding the Nobel Peace Prize and nuclear weapons.

[From little things..... - published by Medicus WA](#)

[ICAN wins Nobel Peace Prize 2017: - Melbourne, Canberra and Medical connections by Dr Charlotte Palmer - Canberra Doctor](#)

[Nuclear weapons — Australia stands on the wrong side of history by Tilman Ruff published by rightnow.org.au](#)

[There's no cause for celebration in exporting death and destruction by Sue Wareham - published by Canberra Times](#)

[The People Who Made a Nuclear-Weapons-Prohibition Treaty Possible - the Nation.com](#)

PEACE & ART documentary - a request from Fiona Cochrane,

I am both a doctor (a GP in Melbourne) and also a filmmaker, and currently I am producing a documentary about Peace and Art.

If you're interested in knowing more about it please email me at info@f-reel.com for more information.

Many thanks,

Fiona Cochrane

Whats on

MAPW National Office

A date for your diary

The 2018 MAPW National Council Meeting will be held this year in Melbourne on Saturday 25th August and Sunday 26th.

The meeting will be held at the Victorian Trades Hall, 54 Victoria Street, Carlton, Melbourne 3053.

More information will be available in the coming months.

Members & friends are warmly invited to attend.

ACT

What : ACT MAPW Branch Annual Fundraising Dinner

When : Monday 5th March 2018 from 6.30pm to 9.30pm

Where: Delhi 6 Restaurant, Childers St, Civic

Speaker:: ROBERT TICKNER - ICANⁱ Ambassador

“Why the Australian parliament should be unanimously backing the nuclear weapons ban treaty”

Robert Tickner is a former Labor parliamentarian, and was Australia’s longest serving Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, from 1990-1996. From 2005-2015 he was Under Secretary for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Federation, and CEO of the Australian Red Cross, where he played a key role in ensuring Red Cross’ commitment to the outlawing of nuclear weapons. His personal commitment to nuclear weapons abolition has been a life-long one, beginning in high school in country NSW. ICANⁱ is honoured to have him as an Ambassador.

Cost: \$60 for 3-course meal. BYO available.

Bookings essential, by 1 March: contact Maureen Cummuskey at maureencummuskey@inet.net.au, ph 6174 2035 or 0412 176 913

Other enquiries to Sue Wareham

warehams@ozemail.com.au, ph 6253 1117 or 0407 924 152

Bank account details for transfers:

Name of account: MAPW Aus Inc ACT

BSB 633-000. Account number 151 140 365

reference : 2018 FUNDRAISER DINNER

QUEENSLAND

What: The Union of Australian women's International Women's Day dinner

When: Friday 9th March 2018, 6.00pm for 6.30pm

Where: Queensland Council of Unions Building Level 2, 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane

Great Company, speaker and discussion, entertainment, quizzes and dinner. We have the wonderful Combined Unions Choir to sing for us.

Guest Speaker

MAPW President and ICAN board member Dr Sue Wareham

Dr Wareham will discuss Australia's role in abolishing nuclear weapons: why we must support the ban treaty.

Cost: \$30.00 Concessions \$28.00

(Vegetarians, vegans and gluten free catered for – just let us know when you book)

RSVP Friday 2nd March

Email cdawson46@tpg.com.au or phone 07 3281 8283

Please note that the UAW have very generously offered several seats at the dinner for MAPW members. Please contact Sue Wareham at sue.wareham@mapw.org.au for more information.

TASMANIA

What: March MAPW Branch Meeting

When: Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 1.00pm

Where: Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Dunn Place, Hobart TAS 7000

For more information contact : Sally Attrill sattrill@bigpond.com

VICTORIA

What: MAPW Vic Branch Dinner

When: Tuesday March 13th from 6.30pm to 9.30pm

Where: The Courthouse Hotel, 86-90 Errol Street, North Melbourne. Parking is readily available in surrounding streets.

Speaker : Dr Margaret Beavis, Victorian member and immediate past president of MAPW nationally.

US Militarism: What are the costs to Australia?

Much is said of the ANZUS treaty and the US alliance, but what are the real impacts of the increasing militarism of the US, and Australia's joined-at-the-hip outsourcing of our foreign policy? Margie will outline the day to day effects of a steadily growing enmeshment with the US military establishment, and then discuss what we can do about it.

Cost: \$35.00 per head for members and friends, and can be paid at the event.

The dinner is not a fund-raiser, and \$35.00 is the actual cost.

Students pay only \$10.00, and are subsidised \$25.00 each from MAPW Victorian branch funds.

RSVP: Dr Peter Wigg. Branch Secretary drpeterwigg@gmail.com

What : NEVER AGAIN - MAPW and ICAN ART EVENT & SALE

When: OPENING Saturday 19th May 2018 from 3.30pm until Friday 24th May 2018 from 11 to 4 pm -

Where: STEPS Gallery, 62 Lygon St, Carlton

Auction of selected works at 5 pm on Saturday 19 May 2018

Art contributions welcome till May 1st

(50% split for original work)

For more information contact : Jenny Grounds jennygrounds8@gmail.com 0407287684

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

What: WA Branch Meeting:

When: Monday 19th March at 4.30pm

Where : Hosted by Harry Cohen

For more information and for details of the meeting venue please call Glenys Davies on 0409974760